

that we not ask the American people or suggest the American people should do something that each of us as individuals do not do ourselves. I would also suggest that on that day we should forego any political fundraising at which food may be served or consumed; and, thirdly, I would suggest that those of us who would vote for this resolution would ask our leadership to close the Members dining room during that day. I think if we vote for this resolution, we should take it seriously. We should follow its dictates, and we should do what we are asking each of the American citizens to do. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do not have any other speakers; so I would say, in closing, I would state that I am a strong believer in the first amendment. I believe in prayer, fasting. I believe that we should pray not only for our troops but that we pray to end this conflict as quickly as it could possibly be ended and as peacefully as it could be ended. I pray that the loss of life would be diminished as much as possible and that people who are fighting from the United States as well as those from other countries and other nations would have the power of an Almighty supreme force invoked so that all of us can escape this effort with as much hope, peace, and possibility as we can. I urge support for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for his very thoughtful words and comments, and just to remind Members again that the most operative words in this resolution are what we resolve, that we designate a day for humility, prayer, and fasting for all people of the United States and call on all people of the United States to observe the day as a time of prayer and fasting, to seek guidance from God to achieve a greater understanding of our own failings to learn how we can do better in our everyday activities, and to gain resolve in meeting the challenges that confront our Nation.

I believe that resolve is so in line with the spirit of what our Founding Fathers did in years before.

Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN), who was the presenter of this resolution. I thank him for that.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for his remarks and for a moment to talk about something that is so much a pattern of America's history.

If we go back to the early days of our system of republics, we go back to the time in 1774 when there was a day of fasting and prayer that was called by the Virginia House of Burgesses. That was where Patrick Henry, of course, made his famous speech.

But I think perhaps historically one of the more amazing incidents occurred the next year, 1775, where the Governor of Connecticut called his State to a time of fasting and prayer for the people of Boston and the people of Massachusetts. He coincidentally called that time of fasting and prayer for the month of April on the 18th day. As it turned out, that was the exact day that the Redcoats left Boston in search of John Hancock and the weapons that they thought were being stored in Concord, Massachusetts, and the War of Independence began.

That continues along. In fact, we had FDR, even going back to World War II time, talking about the fact that this is a war, really defending the idea that everybody should have equal rights because God gives them those equal rights. That was FDR making that comment in World War II. So we have a long history of a Nation that, when we get into an armed conflict, to turn to God and to ask His support and to humble ourselves before Him.

That actually, though, if we think about it logically, is very consistent with the very purpose and cause of what America has always been about. If we really think about what is it that is the glue that defines America, what holds us together as a people, it is that belief that there is a God who grants to all of us certain basic and unalienable rights, the right to life, the light to liberty, the right to pursue the dream that God puts into everybody's heart. So we do not believe that that is just an American right, but that is something that is for all people everywhere, and it is that belief that has propelled our soldiers onto the battlefield and made us to stand strong in the face against many different types of tyrants, just as we are even at this day.

So it is with these thoughts and these sentiments that we once again turn back to our traditions and to our history and ask and implore the Almighty God to watch over us, to remind us of our faults and places where we need to change our ways but also to strengthen us and to encourage us and help us to prevail because we do know, in fact, it is true that all people everywhere should have life and liberty and be allowed to pursue the dreams of their own hearts.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have no other speakers, and I want to thank, before returning the balance of my time, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) again for introducing this important resolution and also the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for his thoughtful comments and support.

I urge all Members to support the adoption of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 153.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 2:15 p.m.

□ 1416

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 2 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1732

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 5 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the remaining motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken tomorrow.

CONCERNING TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HELD AS PRISONER OF WAR BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 118) concerning the treatment of members of the Armed Forces held as prisoner of war by Iraqi authorities, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 118

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States and military forces of United States coalition partners are currently engaged in hostilities in Iraq in prosecuting Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas an unknown number of members of the Armed Forces of the United States have been taken prisoner by Iraqi authorities and it is possible that, before the end of hostilities, additional members of the Armed Forces of the United States and members of other coalition forces may be taken prisoner by Iraqi authorities;

Whereas members of the military forces of Iraq have been taken prisoner by coalition armed forces;

Whereas all such prisoners who are captured while complying with the laws of war are entitled to prisoner of war status until their final release and repatriation;

Whereas in the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, signed at Geneva on August 12, 1949 (referred to as the "Third Geneva Convention"), the international community has prescribed rules concerning the treatment of prisoners of war;

Whereas more than 190 nations, including the United States and Iraq, are parties to the Third Geneva Convention;

Whereas Article 13 of the Third Geneva Convention requires the humane treatment of prisoners of war and that prisoners of war be protected against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity;

Whereas Article 17 of the Third Geneva Convention explicitly prohibits the infliction of physical or mental torture and other forms of coercion on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatever and provides that prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind;

Whereas Article 23 of the Third Geneva Convention provides that a prisoner of war may not at any time be sent to, or detained in areas where the prisoner may be exposed to the fire of the combat zone, nor may a prisoner's presence be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations;

Whereas the Third Geneva Convention requires that a government holding prisoners of war grant representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) free access to all prisoners of war;

Whereas the Government of the United States has informed the Iraqi authorities that it intends to treat captured members of the Iraqi armed forces fully in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention and is in discussions with ICRC officials to facilitate access at the earliest possible time to Iraqi enemy prisoners of war held by United States Armed Forces; and

Whereas Iraqi television has broadcast what appear to be pictures of captured American military personnel; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commends the bravery and professionalism of the members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the military forces of United States coalition partners; and

(2) extends heartfelt sympathies to the families and loved ones of those who are killed, wounded, missing in action, or taken prisoner by Iraqi authorities.

SEC. 2. The Congress—

(1) demands that Iraqi authorities comply fully and immediately with its obligations and responsibilities of the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War;

(2) condemns the failure of Iraqi authorities to treat prisoners of war in strict conformity with that Convention;

(3) demands that Iraqi authorities permit the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit any and all American and coalition prisoners of war at the earliest possible time, in accordance with the requirements of that Convention;

(4) joins the President in warning all Iraqi authorities that any individual who mistreats any prisoner of war in violation of that Convention shall be considered a war criminal and prosecuted as such to the full extent of United States and international law; and

(5) supports the President in committing the full effort and reach of the United States Government to the swift and safe repatriation of all prisoners of war at the earliest possible moment consistent with that Convention.

SEC. 3. The Congress supports the President in seeking the fullest possible accounting, at the earliest possible time upon the cessation of hostilities, of all members of the Armed Forces who are in a missing status as a result of operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this Member rises today to speak on behalf of those brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have been taken prisoner of war by the Iraqi regime, and for those who are missing in action.

All Members were appalled by the reports and images of the barbaric treatment of our soldiers by the Iraqi regime captors. This resolution will send a clear message of resolve that this Congress will stand by and insist on the rights of its military sons and daughters in their time of peril. We will spare no effort to bring them home alive and in good health, and to hold to account anybody who would dare mistreat them.

All of us join families, comrades in arms and friends in prayer for their safe return, the safe return of all members of our armed services. I note with pride that the American military is already carrying out its obligations under the Geneva Conventions. We have invited the Red Cross or Red Crescent to visit our prisoners, and we demand the same access for the Red Cross to coalition prisoners held by Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friends, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), for introducing this most important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the seventh day of Operation Iraqi Freedom, a valiant campaign by the United States, the United Kingdom, and our partners to rid the world of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and the regime that wields them.

We have achieved much in this war so far. Iraq's southern oil fields have been saved, its western deserts have been secured, and its gulf ports have been opened. Our Air Forces have meticulously degraded Iraq's defenses while minimizing civilian casualties, and our Third Infantry Division is poised at Saddam Hussein's doorstep.

We owe these successes to America's soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who have performed bravely and brilliantly in this fight. The courage and skill they have displayed on the battlefield comes as no shock. Their training and leadership has prepared them well, but it does continue to inspire awe.

I know I speak for all Americans, Mr. Speaker, in expressing my deepest admiration and strongest support for all of our military men and women fighting in Iraq. We admire especially the service of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in this war to date, and those who may do so in the days ahead. Our deepest condolences go to the families who have lost their loved ones. The brave men and women who have laid down their lives in Iraq are true American heroes whose debt our thankful Nation can never repay.

America's Armed Forces, Mr. Speaker, represent the best our democracy has to offer. Their conduct reflects the values we cherish. We respect international law and uphold the highest human virtues in this fight.

The enemy we face does not share these values. The Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein has waged this war in total violation of all norms of civilized behavior. Its armed forces use innocents as human shields, execute deserters on sight, hide in hospitals, fire from behind white flags, and deny their own people access to humanitarian assistance. They deliberately position their tanks and artillery next to mosques, schools, and hospitals, putting innocent Iraqi civilians at great risk.

In a futile attempt to build support for his doomed regime, Saddam Hussein has waged a relentless and reckless disinformation campaign. To this end, he has utilized American prisoners of war as propaganda props, abusing, humiliating, and intimidating them, in clear violation of the Geneva Convention.

The resolution before us delivers a stern warning to the Iraqi regime to end such atrocities and to comply with

the terms of the Third Geneva Convention relating to the treatment of prisoners of war. It places the full weight and power of the American people behind the enforcement of this code of conduct.

We should not delude ourselves, Mr. Speaker. Saddam Hussein has utter contempt for the Geneva Convention and all international agreements. He feels no obligation to abide by the norms of civilized behavior, as he showed in his reprehensible conduct towards coalition soldiers in the first Gulf War.

Our vote today is not likely to deter him, although we hope that it does. It will set the standard for the swift and certain justice we shall deliver to those who have perpetrated war crimes after Saddam's rotten regime collapses. It will show the entire world that the United States, the United Kingdom, and all of our partners are committed to the lawful, humane conduct of this war, despite the evil and cowardly tactics the enemy employs.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support to this resolution and to the American prisoners of war currently in captivity.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for bringing this to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that there would not have been a day that we had to bring a resolution like this to the floor. I rise today in strong support of this resolution. Frankly, I am just so outraged at the inhumane treatment of American POWs by Saddam Hussein's brutal regime. I am really fighting to hold down a deep anger at these purveyors and practitioners of torture and terror who have been wickedly exhibiting their captives over the last few days.

There is no doubt that war is brutal, and it is a terrible situation; but there are rules of engagement, and there should be some basic human decency. The actions of this regime, including abusing our POWs and using civilians as human shields, serves to remind the world what a vicious, ruthless dictator we are dealing with.

One thing is certain: this is an immoral, immoral regime. These oppressors have made it clear that they have no regard for human life. But they should bear this in mind: our POWs are not faceless victims. They will return home, and those responsible will have to answer to a higher power, and they will answer to one on this Earth, as well.

We have a Member of this House who was once a prisoner of war, my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM

JOHNSON). On February 13, 1973, the gentleman from Texas boarded a plane at Hanoi's airport and returned home after spending 7 years as a prisoner of war at the hands of the North Vietnamese. He endured unspeakable torture, lived in primitive conditions, and suffered from malnutrition.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) serves as an inspiration to every Member of this House and to the people of this country. These captured members of our Armed Forces will soon serve as an inspiration to all Americans. In the meantime, we pray for our unselfish heroes, and we eagerly await their return home. Today's effort will help Americans keep our POWs in our hearts and remember them in our prayers. Nothing is more fitting at this time than honoring those who are sacrificing their liberty in the defense of our freedom.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), the original author of this legislation and a distinguished member of our Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me on this very important issue.

Let me first begin by thanking my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), for allowing me to work with him to draft this resolution in support of our POWs.

Also, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman Hunter) sitting here; the ranking member, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON); the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE); and the ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for their work to bring this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today before the House not only as a Member of Congress but as a former member of the United States Armed Forces, and also as a proud citizen of this great country of ours.

As we all know too well, our country is currently facing very difficult times. We have all heard the unfortunate news concerning the captured members of the 507th Maintenance Company by Iraqi military. Fort Bliss, home of the 507th Maintenance Company, is located in my district. This disturbing news truly hit home for me and for all my constituents in El Paso, Texas. Over the past few months, nearly 4,000 of Fort Bliss's troops have been deployed to the Middle East. On February 17, 2003, the 507th Maintenance Company was also deployed.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally vividly remember that windy day back in 1967 when I was getting ready to deploy overseas. I remember then how proud I was wearing the uniform of our military, and how proud I was to be a soldier representing this great country. I also remember the concern that I had for my family.

□ 1745

I was leaving behind my mom and my dad, my nine brothers and sisters and my then girlfriend Carolina, who today has been my wife for 34 years. I was being sent away to a country unknown to me, away from my family and my friends; and I can assure my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, war is the most difficult of experiences one can experience.

Thirty-six years ago, I served my country proudly. I was fortunate enough to be one of those that returned. I will not even begin today to compare my experiences with those that are facing our courageous men and women being held captive in Iraq. I do strongly commend these troops for their unwavering bravery and pledge my support that they are returned safely.

Mr. Speaker, among those troops are the 507th Maintenance Company. Being held captive is a constituent of mine from El Paso. She is an honorable patriot, and now she is an inspiration not only to the people of El Paso but to all of us all across this country. We stand behind her and her brothers and her sisters in arms.

I would also like to recognize the courage of our other captive troops, including the Apache pilots from Fort Hood, Texas. My deepest and most heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with their families, as well as with all families affected by this tragedy.

I know the people of Fort Bliss and the city of El Paso will continue to keep our brothers and sisters in their prayers. I have the utmost confidence in our armed services so that they will very soon reunite the captive soldiers with their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I decided this afternoon that in my remarks I would not mention any names of any of the troops that are currently held prisoner out of respect for their privacy and the privacy of their families, as well as deferring to the request from the Department of Defense. It was recently this afternoon brought to my attention that two more of our soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

I am proud to be able to stand before this House and express my support for our troops. As a member of the House Committee on Armed Services, I have had the privilege and the honor of visiting our troops on many occasions, not only at Fort Bliss but around this country and around the Middle East. I am very proud and honored to be able to represent such brave and professional soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of this resolution before us today. I want to assure the American people and the families and the friends of our captive troops that the Congress of the United States stands behind our brave men and women, and we will do everything in our power to see that our prisoners are treated with dignity and humanity and that they are recovered as quickly and as safely as possible.

I strongly encourage all my colleagues to vote for this resolution.

I also in the strongest terms wish to condemn the Iraqi government and the media that has sought to degrade and humiliate our soldiers in violation of the Geneva Convention, as some of my colleagues have already previously mentioned.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by commending all the members of our armed services that are serving us so valiantly in Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as the troops that are supporting Operation Enduring Freedom for their patriotism, their bravery and their professionalism will never be forgotten.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the British and Australian troops and other members of the coalition who are fighting alongside Americans in combat and to all the personnel from other allied countries who are providing support to our troops. I support our government's effort to prosecute this war swiftly and successfully with a minimum of military and civilian casualties. Our soldiers deserve our fullest support, and they can count on all of us for that, no matter how long it takes.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless our troops and God bless America. I thank my good friend for yielding me the time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) the majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) as well as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) for bringing this resolution on the floor and doing it so quickly after the latest round of atrocities that we see from Saddam Hussein and his regime.

Once again, he showed us just how evil his regime is by the treatment of American POWs in this war. What has happened to Iraqis for decades now we have seen happen to Americans, torture, murder, setting examples so that a tyrant can continue to subjugate his people.

This regime has clearly violated the Geneva Convention. They have apparently murdered imprisoned American soldiers. They have exploited POWs and their families by broadcasting images of these captives on TV and in a broadcast where they also display the bodies of those who died at their hands.

Saddam Hussein's actions in this war demonstrate, once again, just how depraved he is. He has ordered the murder of his own people. He has attacked his neighbors. He has used weapons of mass destruction. Every day that passes in this war unearths a new atrocity from this tyrant.

Iraqi citizens were fired on today as they attempted to throw off their op-

pressors. News reports were that anti-aircraft weapons were turned on people in the streets to take one more step in a series of steps by Saddam Hussein to take freedom away from his people.

Our young people continue to fight courageously for the liberation of Iraq. My thoughts and prayers, the thoughts and prayers of so many in our country go out to everyone involved, those who have given their lives and the families of those who have given their lives in this effort already, the families of those who are prisoners, the families of those who are injured. They should take pride in the commitment that these brave men and women who serve us so well have made, and made, as we have so often done, not selfishly on our part but selflessly reaching out to try to secure freedom for others.

I applaud our troops. I join in this resolution that condemns the behavior of this regime as it violates the standards of civilized society once again.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

I first wish to compliment the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for this resolution and bringing it to the floor. So I rise in support of this resolution, which demands that the Iraqi authorities abide by the principles and obligations of the Geneva Convention relative to the treatment of prisoners of war.

Our Nation is at war with Iraq. Service members on both sides of this conflict have been taken prisoners of war. Yet while the United States has held up its obligations under the Geneva Convention, recent news reports from the Middle East suggest that the Iraqi government and its leaders are not following the requirements of international law.

Mr. Speaker, I recently saw the Al Jazeera tape that has been played regarding the American prisoners of war and those who were killed. Words cannot express my disgust.

The United States has allowed representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross free access to Iraqi prisoners, as required under the Geneva Convention. The Iraqi government so far as not provided any access to American prisoners of war by the Red Cross.

The Geneva Convention also requires that prisoners of war not be exposed to fire in combat zone, not be used as human shields and not be held up to public ridicule. The United States has fully complied with all these obligations. It is unknown if the Iraqi government has used its American and British prisoners as human shields or exposed them to fire in the combat zone, but as those of my colleagues have seen the videotape that ran on Al Jazeera TV knows, the Iraqis have per-

mitted American casualties to be filmed and have held up our prisoners to public interrogation and ridicule. This is simply unforgivable.

American allies have lost several of their sons and daughters in uniform in this conflict. Our Nation mourns their loss, and the thoughts and prayers of all Americans are with their families and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, we must demand needed compliance with the Geneva Convention by the Iraqi authorities. Representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross need to be provided immediate and unfettered access to our prisoners of war. And let there be no misunderstanding, Mr. Speaker. We will give no quarter to those who would blatantly violate the laws of war. They will be held accountable.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) for his great work in bringing this to the floor and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for accommodating and working this resolution and, of course, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), my partner on the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. Speaker, Iraqi officers today must consider one thing, the United States will win this conflict. Iraq may have the ability to delay that victory for a short period of time, but they cannot stop it.

Secondly, after we win this war, and we will win it, all Iraqi officers will be held accountable for their actions with respect to POWs and the Geneva Conventions. So if prisoners of war are abused in any way, if bodies are displayed, if POWs are displayed or humiliated, or if you abuse women POWs in any way, as they have been abused in the past by Iraqi service personnel, you will be held accountable. That means that those Iraqi officers will be identified, the people who are in charge of that particular operation, and if you go to the far corners of the globe, you will be found by Americans. Just as we have found dozens of terrorists in very remote niches of the world, we will find you; and at that point you will be brought to justice.

So the message for Iraqi military officers right now is a very clear one. If you want to protect your own future after this war is over, you had better protect POWs today.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ).

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Kingston resolution. I want to recognize the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who are valiantly serving our country in the war in Iraq.

Over the weekend, seven of our soldiers were taken prisoner by the Iraqi government. One of the POWs is within my district and lives in Elgin; and I want to take this opportunity to indicate to my colleagues that I wanted to express my support to his family, to his mother and the rest of his family.

I know that his mother, my constituent, has indicated and had asked me to send a message to her son. The family has indicated that the whole community is supporting and praying for his safe return. She is asking him to be strong and to not lose faith in the Lord. The family has faith that you will return home safely.

I hope and I expect that the POWs and our troops that are being held in Iraq will be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve under international law. Iraq and the United States are both parties to the Geneva Convention, and they are required to treat POWs both in a humane way and to protect them against any violence, any intimidation and to avoid insults and public ridicule. The actions of the Iraqi government that we have seen so far of displaying our captured soldiers on television is unacceptable.

I support our troops who are in Iraq, and I want them to know that the country is fully behind them, and we pray for their safe return. In these times of conflict is when I want the families of the soldiers to know that they have our prayers and assurance that we will do everything we can.

□ 1800

My sympathies go out to the families of our soldiers who have lost their lives, have been wounded, are prisoners of war, or are missing in action. I hope that this war ends soon and successfully and all our soldiers will return home safely.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind Members that remarks in debate should be addressed to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), a senior member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and certainly the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) for offering this resolution.

I represent Camp Lejeune Marine Base, Cherry Point Marine Air Station, New River Air Facility, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base; and I stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I am offended on behalf of our men and women in uniform by the way that the POWs have been treated. It is unacceptable. I want to take my limited time by making a point on a part of this resolution that joins the Presi-

dent in warning all Iraqi authorities that any individual who mistreats any prisoner of war in violation of the convention shall be considered a war criminal and shall be prosecuted as such to the full extent of United States and international law.

Mr. Speaker, in 1995 the first bill that I had the opportunity to introduce was called the War Crimes Act of 1996. I worked with a former POW of the Vietnam War, Mike Cronin, a Navy pilot shot down, and he spent 6½ years at the Hanoi Hilton. I know the agony that our POWs are going through in the hands of the Iraqis, and I want the Iraqis to know that we are not going to allow mistreatments in violation of the Geneva Convention.

I want to mention the bill that Mike Cronin helped me and other Members of the House and Senate pass. The War Crimes Act of 1996 and the Expanded War Crimes of 1997 carried out the obligation the United States incurred after it signed the 1949 Geneva Convention for the protection of victims of war. This legislation allows for prosecution of war criminals in the absence of a specific international tribunal or military judicial proceedings with penalties which could include fines, life imprisonment or death in circumstances where the act resulted in the death of the victim.

Mr. Speaker, I mention that because I want people to know that this country is not going to allow our men and women in uniform to be mistreated.

I close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform, please bless the families, and please, God, bless America.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that each side be given an additional 10 minutes so that Members who choose to speak on this important resolution may have the opportunity to do so.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), the original sponsor of this resolution, for his vision and his willingness to ensure that we stand united on this question of our POWs, as well as the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), whose district is most pointedly impacted. I also thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who has been a champion on the issue of human rights, along with the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), who has been on the forefront of the issue of human rights; and these are questions of human rights.

I come to the floor today to show truly to the world that the Congress stands united in support of our troops and demand that they be treated humanely and with great cause of concern. I am reading from the provisions of the Geneva Convention, article 12; and it says prisoners of war are in the hands of the enemy power, but not of the individual enemy unit that captured them. Irrespective of the individual responsibilities that may exist, the detaining power is responsible for the treatment given to them. Article 13 says prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated.

I stand before this House not calling the names of those who are missing or the names of POWs except to say that a large number of them have come from the State of Texas and the 507th Maintenance Company in Fort Bliss, Texas. To all of the families, some of them who have lost loved ones now as the war is raging, and those who are missing and those who are POWs, we stand united to demand that the Geneva Convention be adhered to. This resolution is a loud sound that gives a clarification call to the Iraqi Government and to the Iraqi military that we will not tolerate the inhumane treatment of our brave young men and women. And it also states that the United States, as we capture the Iraqi military, also adhere to the Geneva Convention; and we have been told by our military leadership that that is the case.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here united, let it be clear there is no divide between us in our support of the United States troops. They are valiant young men and women. Their families are standing by. Our prayers are with them; but most of all our resolve for them to come home safely, that they be treated humanely and that the international law of the Geneva Convention be adhered to. We stand united, undivided, and we will prevail.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the resolution offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON). It is incumbent on the Congress to send a warning to Saddam Hussein and his regime of their obligation to treat prisoners of war humanely and abide by the rules of the Geneva Convention.

Mr. Speaker, the State of Georgia received sad news yesterday that one of our brave sons, Army Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Young, Jr., of Lithia Springs was captured and taken prisoner by enemy forces in Iraq. His capture and detainment by Iraqi forces troubles me greatly, and I know the entire House joins me in sending my strongest prayers and thoughts to his parents, Kaye and Ronald, Sr., as well as his wife, Stephanie, and their infant son. We pray for his safety and his quick return home.

Mr. Speaker, our goal is the swift and safe repatriation of all prisoners of war at the earliest possible moment, but I want the warning to Saddam Hussein and his regime to be clear: Any individual who mistreats a prisoner of war in violation of the Geneva Convention will be considered a war criminal and prosecuted to the full extent of United States and international law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this resolution today and to remember the young family in your hearts and prayers.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

(Mr. COLE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, this is the first occasion I have had to speak in the well of the House, and I do not expect to ever have an opportunity to speak on a more important issue on a more important occasion.

I keep in my office a picture of my uncle who was liberated from an axis prison camp in August 1945 after spending over 3 years in enemy captivity. He is surrounded by another group of brave Americans, and I keep that picture to remind me of the sacrifices people paid so that we have an opportunity to come here and debate and argue and discuss the great issues of the day.

I often asked my uncle when I was growing up if he ever thought that he would be left behind or forgotten. He told me never, that he knew no American would ever leave another American in captivity. I knew some day my fellows would come for me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to assure those brave men and women in captivity tonight that their country has not forgotten them. We will come for them. We will make sure that they come home safe, sound and free.

I also want to join the Members in this House in warning their captors that if they are not treated with respect and with the dignity that they not only deserve but that we extend to our enemies in this particular conflict, there will be a terrific price to pay in terms of being war criminals.

Finally, I want to say how proud I am to be in this body at this moment, where we have differences occasionally on policy, even this policy; but we have absolutely no difference when it comes to our regard for the men and women in uniform that serve and protect us, and absolutely no difference in our determination to reach out to them to protect them and to see that they are dealt with fairly when they are in captivity and they come home safely.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) to pay special tribute to women soldiers.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) regarding Members'

differing views on the policies of this war, but that we are united behind the idea and the efforts of our troops.

I do want to acknowledge that one of the POWs from Texas is a woman who happens to be a single parent. I want to say on behalf of the women of the United States military, to thank this Congress for its support of women in the military, recognizing their talents and contributions, and not one of them has refused to serve their Nation.

In particular, I think it is important to lift up the Geneva Convention so that none of our troops, whether or not one happens to be a woman, and may be violated, that none are subjected to inhumane treatment and that we stand united on this. There is no difference on how we will fight for our troops and how our troops' bravery will show themselves well on behalf of the American people. God bless them and God bless the United States of America.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY.)

(Mr. MURPHY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I am here to voice strong support for the resolution offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON). By passing this resolution, we in Congress will call upon the Iraqi regime to abide by the obligations of the Geneva Convention by treating prisoners of war with dignity and humanity. We are also making it very clear that any individual who mistreats a prisoner of war in violation of the Geneva Convention will be considered a war criminal themselves and prosecuted to the full extent of United States and international law.

The Geneva Convention requires the humane treatment of prisoners of war and that prisoners of war be protected against acts of violence, intimidation, insults, and public curiosity. Furthermore, the Geneva Convention prohibits the infliction of physical or mental torture and other forms of coercion on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatsoever, and provides that prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind.

U.S. service personnel have confirmed several prisoners of war, and we have to make sure we protect them. I would like to mention as an aside that I ask the American media, television, radio, newspapers, to also avoid any exploitation of family and friends of captives. Information that may be released for the sake of trying to present a good story may be played before our prisoners to try to break their will or manipulate them. I ask Americans if they see such exposures and exploitations, they will speak out.

The thoughts and prayers of all Americans are with the families and loved ones of those soldiers who are

captured or missing in action. We owe a debt of gratitude to all servicemen and women who are sacrificing to defend our freedom.

Let me leave this final message to the Iraqi military and their leadership. Soon, very soon, you will be surrounded. Soon, very soon, you will be defeated. Soon, very soon, you will be captives, and the fate you will face will be decided by how you treat our POWs.

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Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

(Mr. PEARCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of the resolution concerning our POWs and appreciate the sponsors of that bill and the bipartisan support that is coming today.

Mr. Speaker, the hometown of one of the POWs is in my district. Last Monday I had the opportunity to visit with his wife and discuss the situation as she understood it. I was pleased to note that she seemed comfortable and confident that the military had communicated well with her and was very aware of the potentials that she brought to the table by making public statements and was very careful to not draw too much attention to her husband.

Mr. Speaker, I remember a generation ago, 30 years ago, in a different war, in the Vietnam War where an entire segment of the population spoke out in favor of the opposition. One actress even went to Hanoi with prisoners of war there. I would remind the public that there is still pain and an entire Vietnam generation. I speak for that generation urging those who are opposed to the war to please stay here and not take the side of the opponents in this very difficult situation.

I ask the prayers of our country for the young men and young women who are serving in that theater but especially for those who are POWs. And for Specialist Joseph Hudson from Alamogordo, New Mexico, I send my special prayers to you and request the prayers of the country for your family and for you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 118. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this concurrent resolution and I thank Mr. KINGSTON for introducing this important resolution.

First, I would like to commend all of the U.S. troops participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers and especially those who have been captured by the Iraqi regime.

One of the soldiers captured by Iraqi forces is Army Specialist Joseph N. Hudson of the 507th Maintenance Company stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas. Specialist Hudson is a resident of Alamogordo, New Mexico. Hudson is 23 years old. A 1998 graduate of Alamogordo High School, Hudson is described by his principal as a "good kid." "He took care of business. He went through the system and took

care of what he needed to," the Principal said. Hudson has a wife and daughter—and a very concerned family.

Specialist Hudson, along with the other soldiers currently held by the Iraqi regime, represent the best of our country. These are courageous, young soldiers who were captured during an ambush while fighting to bring freedom to a people who have not known it for a very long time.

It is important that we speak on this issue on a bipartisan basis. This House must condemn the actions taken by the Iraqi regime and hold them accountable for their actions.

We must let Saddam Hussein and his regime know that we expect them to treat our soldiers in accordance with the Geneva Convention or else they will be dealt with accordingly.

It is time.

I pray for the prompt and safe return home of Specialist Hudson and the other American soldiers held captive by the Iraqi regime.

I ask all of my colleagues to support this concurrent resolution.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE).

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 118, sponsored by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), urging the Iraqi government and military to treat our troops humanely and our POWs also in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

Our prisoners of war should be protected by the standards the Geneva Conventions outline, which prohibit persons engaged in warfare from humiliating, televising or harming prisoners of war.

Mr. Speaker, we probably all remember the news stories about our POWs from the conflict in Afghanistan at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The POWs there were made to kneel; and people around the world erupted in protest, claiming that we were being unfair to them.

This is nothing compared to what our prisoners of war in Iraq are having to endure. The Iraqi soldiers have not followed the traditional rules of warfare. They have dressed their troops in civilian clothes and hidden them in crowded public places and placed troops in hospitals and schools and fired upon our troops who cannot fire back, and they have instructed their troops to ambush Americans while attempting to surrender.

Mr. Speaker, just today I had the unfortunate experience of calling a family in my district whose son was killed in the line of duty in Iraq. Lance Corporal Brian Rory Buesing, who was only 20 years old, was ambushed by Iraqi troops who were pretending to surrender. These kinds of unfair, inhumane, indecent actions are happening, unfortunately, all the time in this conflict. I urge the Iraqi government to treat our prisoners of war with the respect we treat theirs. We urge other nations in the world to be as outraged at their practices as I am and I am sure

all my colleagues are, and I urge them to also support this resolution.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), chairman of the Committee on Rules.

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding time. I want to begin by congratulating the authors of this resolution, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES) and, of course, my good friend, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), and my dear friend and neighbor, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who has spoken so eloquently on this issue of the war. I want to especially congratulate him because of his life experiences which he brings to this entire question and challenge.

During the 1980s, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to serve on the POW/MIA Task Force. I first was privileged to join this great body in 1981. I came, in fact, with my friend from California (Mr. LANTOS).

Shortly after arriving I met with a woman. Mrs. Masterson was her name. Her daughter looked at me and said, "Congressman, please tell me that my father is dead." It was one of the most incredible things said to me because this young woman lived daily with the uncertainty as to whether her father had survived or not. He was missing in action, and still is, in Vietnam.

That is why this resolution is so important and the message which has come forth as I have listened to the eloquent words of our new colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), who talked about his uncle, as I have listened to so many people talk about this, this challenge we face will, I believe, lead every American to redouble our efforts to ensure that we bring about justice. This is a war of good versus evil. We are on the side of good, and the courageous men and women who have sacrificed and stepped up to the plate are in fact on the side of good. That is why our effort to underscore the importance of the safe return of those prisoners of war and any missing in action is of the highest priority for all of us. I congratulate my friends and look forward to their safe return.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before yielding back my time, I would like to make one observation. We have paid tributes to our military who have been captured. We have expressed our determination that they be treated with dignity and within the confines of the Geneva Convention, and we have expressed our commitment that those who do not will be punished however long it takes us to find them and to bring them to justice.

There is only one item that has not yet been mentioned in this debate. The Arab television network Al Jazeera has

become part and parcel of Saddam Hussein's propaganda machine. I call on the government of Qatar and others who are capable of doing so of rectifying the outrageous policies of this television network which is being used to humiliate and intimidate our military. It is unacceptable that an international television network be used as part of Saddam Hussein's propaganda machine, and we expect action to be taken on that issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all of our colleagues for their insightful and heartfelt comments. I am pleased to yield the balance of my time to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), the author of the resolution, a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES), the cosponsor of this, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) for all the work that their committees did in bringing this to the floor today.

I am wearing, Mr. Speaker, a patch of the Third Infantry Division. This particular emblem, and we all get many lapel buttons in Congress, but it means probably more to me than any that I have ever received. It was given to me by retired Lieutenant Colonel Robin Webber, whose husband is General-promotable Joe Webber. He is over in the theater right now from the Third Infantry Division.

In communities like Fort Stewart, Georgia, which I have the honor of representing where the Third Infantry is headquartered, and Fort Bliss, Texas, and other military communities around the country, we see these young soldiers and some of the older soldiers and all the soldiers and the support personnel as friends and neighbors. When we have an international conflict, we look at it both on a personal level and, of course, on an international level.

I was there at the dockside when the Mendonza ship was loading up the equipment from Fort Stewart, 500,000 square feet worth of tanks and personnel movers and helicopters.

I was there at the DAG at Hunter Air Base when we were shaking hands with the soldiers and standing by the USO as they put the deodorant and the Bibles and sometimes the pocketbooks and other items in bags for them, shaking hands with these soldiers as they went off to mission.

I was at the luncheon meeting with the military wives' organization when Ms. Webber gave this patch to me. They were talking about their own personal struggles and how this conflict affects their lives. Yet to a person and to an experience, everybody who was

involved in this great human chain of activity was very proud of the work of the Third Infantry Division; and indeed now, as they sit on the banks of the Euphrates River, our hearts and thoughts remain with them more than ever.

The men and women who make up the Third Infantry Division, of course, come from all over the country. They come from Mission, Texas; Alamogordo, New Mexico; Park City, Kansas; Pennsauken, New Jersey; Lithia Springs, Georgia; Orlando, Florida; and all over. In that way they are so much members of the American fabric that we all are with them, even the people who did not see the horrible film which Members of Congress saw today, which Members of Congress saw some of our bravest and finest young men dead in apparent execution. We saw other soldiers, men and one woman, who were detained as prisoners of war.

It is with this outrage that we all come together on a bipartisan basis and support H. Con. Res. 118. We believe it is very important to send a signal not just to the soldiers and the members of the Iraqi military but the international community that we believe in the Geneva Convention and we expect any nation that we are at war with to abide by the Geneva Convention.

The four Geneva Conventions, Mr. Speaker, were agreed upon in August, 1949, and they were signed by 164 different nations, including Iraq. The International Committee of the Red Cross oversees the implementation of the conventions. The conventions include the following:

Article 13 states that prisoners of war must at all times be treated humanely, they must be protected against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity.

Article 14 states that prisoners of war are entitled in all circumstances to respect for their persons and their honor.

Article 17 states, in part, every prisoner of war, when questioned on the subject, is bound to give only his surname, first name and rank, date of birth, and army, regimental or personnel serial number or equivalent information. No physical or mental torture, nor any other form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatsoever.

Article 19 states that POWs shall be evacuated as soon as possible after their capture to camps situated in an area far enough from the combat zone for them to be out of danger.

And article 23 says no POW may be sent to, or detailed in, areas where he may be exposed to the fire of the combat zone.

These articles, Mr. Speaker, seem to be totally ignored. We have soldiers over there now that are captured, seven that we know of, that we have confirmed. Yet we have 4,000 Iraqi soldiers, and we are abiding by the Geneva Convention. How easy it would be to

manage for the care of seven prisoners compared to 4,000. Yet the United States, just like Iraq in 1949, signed these conventions; and we intend to stick by them.

By passing this resolution today, which we will, I hope, on a bipartisan and unanimous basis, we are sending a strong signal, three of them, Mr. Speaker, one to the troops, to say that you are foremost on our minds, so are your families and so are the other soldiers who are fighting to regain your freedom. Number two, we are sending a signal to the government and the military of Iraq that if you do ignore the Geneva Convention, then we intend to give you a criminal trial as a war criminal when this conflict is over with or as soon as possible.

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And, number three, we are sending a signal to the international community because we know there are many who have opposed this action. We know there are many nations who do not like the United States of America, and yet since there are 164 nations that have signed the Geneva Conventions, we hope that all 162 others, excluding the United States and Iraq, would join us and say this is an outrage, we insist that Iraq abide by the Geneva Conventions. And this is an opportunity for France, for Russia, for China, for Germany, or any other critics that we have in this action to come together, as have Members of Congress, to say this is not right, we want these conventions followed.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield the floor and close with the remarks of so many other colleagues. God bless these prisoners, God bless our troops, and God bless America.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, we have brave men and women in harms way in Iraq. They are risking their lives for the cause of freedom and security for our Nation. We have lost soldiers in this war, and now we know that Iraq has taken prisoners.

Two of those brave soldiers that have been taken prisoner are from Fort Hood, in my district—Apache pilots from the 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment. These men and their families are in my prayers. I know they have a very difficult road in front of them.

We stand here on the floor of this House to speak for these two pilots, and for all the men and women who may be prisoners of war during this conflict. Iraq, as a signatory of the Geneva Convention, has an obligation to treat American prisoners humanely.

We have already received indications that Iraq is not adhering strictly to the Convention. This is outrageous and must change immediately.

If I could speak to the prisoners and their families for a moment . . . the whole country is behind you right now. We're thinking of you and praying you will be reunited soon. Your sacrifices for your country will not be forgotten.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud American to commend the brave men and women of our armed services who are carrying out the mission to provide hope and freedom to the Iraqi people held captive by Saddam Hussein and his regime.

I also join my colleagues in praying for the continued safety of the Prisoners of War from the United States: five members of the 507th Maintenance Company, taken from their convoy during the confusion of war, and the two pilots of an Apache helicopter shot down while on a mission. Sadly, the fates of several others are still unknown.

I am disgusted by the Iraqi regime's blatant disregard of the Geneva Conventions implemented after World War II to protect soldiers on either side of any conflict. The regime of Saddam Hussein, which rules over a signatory nation of the treaty, is responsible for the safety of our soldiers. If they ignore this serious responsibility, they will bear the consequences when they are prosecuted as Prisoners of War after this conflict. The United States will not allow Iraq's failure to abide by international law go unpunished.

Finally, I wish to add my voice to those commending all our men and women in uniform, praising them for their efforts and praying for their swift and safe return to us.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, two days ago, horrifying video broadcast by the Arab satellite station Al Jazeera filtered back to us here showing tortured and murdered American troops.

I want Saddam to know that here in America we are angry, and we want justice.

The brutal treatment of our unarmed troops has produced in America a wave of defiance; Absolute disgust of Saddam; Magnified the determination of our American military; and Hardened our commitment to remove this barbaric regime.

This treatment provides a sharp reminder of the past cruelty American prisoners of war suffered during the Second World War, Korea and Vietnam.

As a nation, we endured these hardships then—we will endure them now. However, we will endure this pain only until we have Saddam and the generals who ordered these killings—then we will seek the justice our murdered servicemen deserve.

Deliberately killing our men will not weaken our resolve or change our goal to free Iraq. The regime of Saddam Hussein will be removed—the outcome of the conflict is determined and settled. We will win, we will bring our troops back home and we will punish the Iraqi murderers.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution demanding Iraq abide by the Geneva Conventions in the treatment of prisoners of war. While war is hideous and deadly, civilized nations of the world over 50 years ago came together to make the situation of POWs less awkward and more humane.

Iraq is a signatory to the conventions. The Geneva convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War requires the humane treatment of prisoners of war, and that POWs be protected against acts of violence or intimidation, insults, and public curiosity. The convention also explicitly prohibits the infliction of physical or mental torture; provides that POWs may not be exposed to fire in a war zone; and requires that a government holding such prisoners grant representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross free access to all POWs.

Congress demands that Iraqi authorities abide by the principles and the obligations of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, and we condemn

the failure of Iraqi authorities to treat prisoners of war in strict conformity with the conventions. Congress also demands that Iraqi authorities permit the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit all U.S. prisoners of war and any other prisoner of war at the earliest possible time, in accordance with the requirements of the conventions.

The U.S. government has informed the Iraqi authorities that we will treat all captured Iraqi prisoners in accordance with the Geneva Convention. We are a peace-loving nation roused to war, but we are not inhumane; we will treat the prisoners of Iraq with respect and decency. We demand no less from the other signatories of the convention.

This resolution warns all Iraqi authorities that anyone mistreating any POW is in violation of the conventions and will be a war criminal this country will chase down and prosecute to the full extent of U.S. and international law.

I join my colleagues in commending the bravery and professionalism of the members of the U.S. armed forces and its coalition partners. My heart is heavy for the families and loved one of those who are killed, wounded, missing in action, or taken prisoner by Iraqi authorities.

Know that we do not leave our men and women on the battlefield, we will fight to find them and bring them all home.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on April 16, 1966, during my second tour of Vietnam I was shot down. I spent nearly 7 years as a prisoner of war—more than half of that time in solitary confinement.

During my 25th mission I weighed about 200 pounds. During my captivity in Vietnam, I got down to 120 pounds. My captors beat me, tortured me, starved me, and interrogated me.

When I ejected out of the plane, I broke my back and right arm. It was these injuries my captors would use to push me to the brink. One time they put me in front of a firing squad and said, 'we're going to kill you.' They readied their AK-47s. Now I started praying harder than I ever prayed in my life. In a few seconds, the guns went click, click, click, click, click. I laughed at them—big mistake. It is only because of the grace of God I survived.

When I heard about American P.O.W.s in Iraq, my heart skipped a beat. And when I saw pictures of them—I was furious!! That is a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention. That's just wrong.

It is my hope that this Congress and the international community will send a strong signal to the Iraqis that if they do not uphold the Geneva Conventions and treat our troops humanely . . . the Iraqis will be sought . . . they will be caught . . . and they will be punished as war criminals.

I just hope that those Iraqis see the writing on the walls that they're working for a falling regime and that if they don't adhere to these international laws they will be punished.

Now my heart goes out to the family and friends of our troops and especially our P.O.W.s. You're in our thoughts and prayers. And to our soldiers—all I can tell you is that what you're doing is the greatest job in the world and America will be there for you!

To the P.O.W.s—we will find you and we will come and get you! And when we do—trust me—it will be the most incredible day of your life. God bless you and God bless America.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of both the important resolutions we

are considering today. These resolutions are two ways that we in Congress can express our appreciation for our troops in Iraq, share our condolences with the families of those who have been lost and increase support around the country for our men and women in uniform who are serving their country with bravery and much success.

H. Res. 153 calls for observance of a day of prayer and fasting in our country. People in our country and our leaders have a long history of turning in God in times of need, especially war situations. We need to again take time, regardless of our religious traditions, to ask for guidance and strength for our military leaders and the future of our Nation. We have been threatened by terrorism, and we are acting now to prevent future threats. We pray for the knowledge to make the right decisions and the ability to help advance peace and safety around the world.

I also strongly support the Concurrent Resolution regarding the treatment of our prisoners of war. We know how poorly Saddam Hussein has treated his own citizens over the years, so there is reason to be concerned for the safety of our POW's. I join the Congress in sending a clear message to the Iraqis who are holding our prisoners: treat them with respect and dignity, in the same manner we are treating your prisoners. Any one who violates the law and mistreats our POWs will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

As we witness our U.S. and coalition troops serving with bravery and resolve in their mission to disarm Iraq, I have great confidence in their ability to get the job done. They are focused on the mission at hand. They have the advantage of precision weapons, and we have seen their ability to select and hit targets. Their commanders have planned and executed an aggressive strategy in the air and on the ground.

Here at home, we need a showing of support for our troops and their families. Many in Kentucky have loved ones serving our Nation in Iraq, especially with the deployments from Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. As our men and women in uniform fight in order to improve security in the world, their anxious and proud family members keep faith and await their safe return. This military effort to provide for future security has not come without loss of life. We pray for those who have been lost, for their families and for our troops' safety.

We will be successful in disarming Saddam Hussein of his weapons of mass destruction, no matter how long it takes. We will eliminate the threat he poses to our country and to our allies. The Iraqi people are more than ready for liberation from Saddam.

A liberated Iraq with a leader who no longer threatens peace and security is a goal all nations can agree on. The United States is providing the military means to that goal, and our country and the Congress have the highest support and appreciation for our troops.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 118, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed until tomorrow.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on House Resolution 153 also will resume tomorrow.

INTERIM COMMITTEE EXPENSES FOR 108TH CONGRESS THROUGH APRIL 11, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 163) providing amounts from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for continuing expenses of standing and select committees of the House from April 1, 2003, through April 11, 2003, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) to explain.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding.

The Committee on House Administration in conjunction with the Speaker's office, our ranking member, and all the members of the Committee on House Administration continue to work towards a final resolution that will ultimately provide House committees with a permanent funding resolution for the 108th Congress. House rules contain an interim funding provision that provides a temporary funding mechanism to fund committees until a permanent committee funding resolution is passed. The deadline set by the House rules is March 31. However, negotiations on the 2004 budget resolution delayed work on the committee budget resolution which will make it impossible to pass this resolution by the March 31 deadline set forth in the House rules. As a result, we are seeking unanimous consent to pass a temporary funding resolution which would temporarily fund committees after the March 31 deadline and until a permanent funding resolution is passed.

I also want to thank the tremendous communication, cooperation of the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), our ranking member, and the members of the committee who diligently worked together to achieve a funding document that will be able to allow the committees of the House to do their job, respond to the citizens of the United States, and carry on the very important work of the House committees.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to